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"METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FORMING AN OPTICAL FIBER  
PREFORM BY COMBUSTIONLESS HYDROLYSIS"

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**ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for fabricating a glass preform used in the manufacture of optical waveguides. The method utilizes a gas phase hydrolysis of a silica precursor without using a carrier gas. The flow of the reactants in the reaction chamber is confined and deposited on the target preform by careful control of the thermal profile in the system.

Fig. 2